

## Blessings to you this Christmas season!

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with Shawn when he visits soon. It's always a blessing to have him home.



Chris has had a good year. He's healthy. He biked almost 1200 miles this year—mostly on the Nickel Plate Trail. We live just a mile from the trail, so it's easy for him to ride over and then travel up toward Rochester or down toward Kokomo. He enjoys his time on the trail. He's still working in foundry maintenance at Ford Meter Box, and he enjoys that job. There's always something different to do, and it gives him a chance to practice his MacGyvering skills.

Rae had a health scare in February. Her doctors thought one of her parathyroid glands might have stopped functioning properly. But everything turned out to be fine. She's enjoying her Pampered Chef Business and is still working part time for Bickford of Wabash and acting as personal secretary to our pastor at Chapel Ministries Outreach (CMO). He's working on a new book, so that's keeping her busy.

We are still involved with the children's ministry at CMO, working with the age 3 through kindergarten class. We are also enjoying time with two of our honorary granddaughters—Psalm (4) and Ember (1). We watch them on Sunday evenings while their parents help lead our church's youth group. When the weather allows, we take the girls for a walk along that same Nickel Plate Trail.

Shawn has had an eventful year. In January he completed his ordination. Yes, he is now the Reverend Shawn Bates. In February he began as leader of the young adult ministry at his church—Church on the Hill. In March he was promoted to Manager on Duty at his Chase. In June he went skydiving. He's still single, but his life is full and blessed in Cedar Hill, Texas.

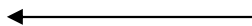
That's the news from us. We're happy and healthy, savoring our lives as The Furry Guy and The Weird Little Woman with Flippy Red Hair. God is good, and we appreciate His abundant blessings.

We pray that He is blessing you and your family as well. Remember that you can stay in touch with us on Facebook; just look for Rae Black Bates. (Rae keeps Chris informed.) Or, you're welcome to call. We've done away with our land line, so the only way to reach us is by cell (765-470-1610 for Chris or 765-210-0360 for Rae).

Merry Christmas!  
*Chris & Rae Bates*



Our little family last year at Thanksgiving.



Grandpa and the girls on the trail.

